

# THE SHADOW™ GREEN HORNET™ DARK NIGHTS



**DYNAMITE** #1



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**Lamont Cranston**, the wealthy resident of New York City, masquerades as the gunfighter known as The Shadow who, along with his network of agents, seeks to serve justice and show that the weed of crime bears only bitter fruit.

**Britt Reid** is the publisher of Century City's most successful newspaper, the *Daily Sentinel*. He wears the guise of The Green Hornet to fight injustice by infiltrating the criminal underworld, along with his partner Kato.

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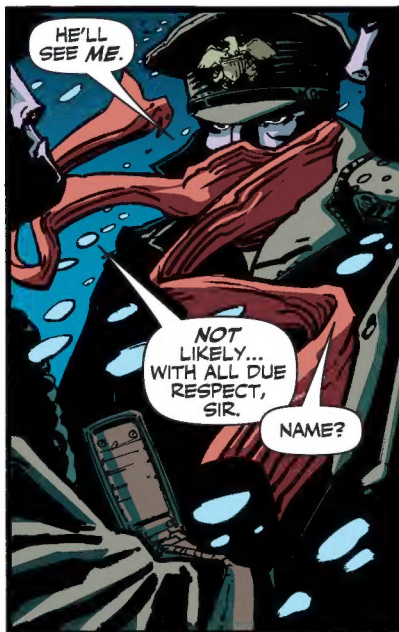
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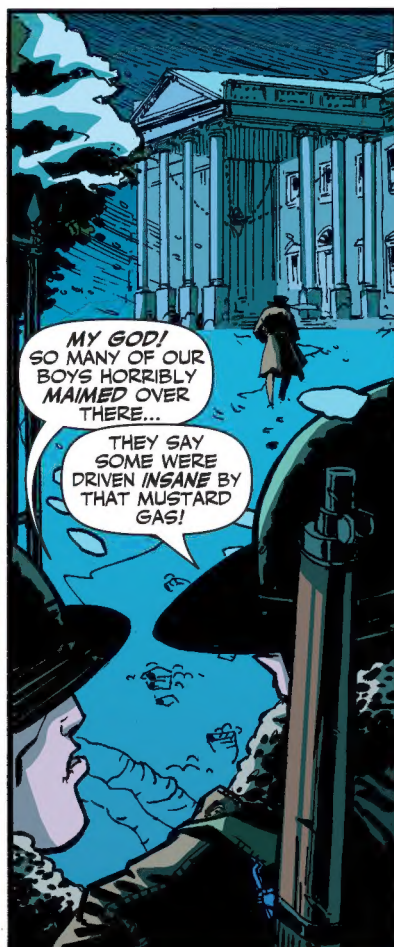








I...  
I'M SO--  
YOU...  
YOU'RE **CLEAR**  
TO PROCEED  
TO THE **WHITE**  
HOUSE, SIR.



MY GOD!  
SO MANY OF OUR  
BOYS HORRIBLY  
MAINED OVER  
THERE...

THEY SAY  
SOME WERE  
DRIVEN **INSANE** BY  
THAT **MUSTARD**  
GAS!



I'LL  
**NEVER** BE ABLE  
TO FORGET HIS...  
HIS--

THEY  
SAY THE **GAS**  
ATE THEIR  
FLESH!



POOR  
SOUL...

WHAT SOUL?  
DIDN'T YOU LOOK  
INTO HIS **EYES**?

ANY SOUL  
HE HAD **DESERTED**  
HIS BODY BACK AT  
VERDUN.



THE PRESIDENT  
STOPPED SEEING  
**EVERYBODY**. WHY  
WOULD HE SEE  
**THIS MAN**?



WHO  
KNOWS...?





COLONEL ALLARD...  
SORRY TO KEEP YOU  
WAITING. I'M **EDITH  
WILSON**, THE WIFE  
OF—

I KNOW  
WHO YOU  
ARE.



YOU  
BROUGHT  
IT WITH YOU,  
I PRESUME?  
I NEED TO  
**SEE** IT.

I WAS CLEAR.  
I'LL SHOW IT **ONLY** TO  
THE **PRESIDENT**.

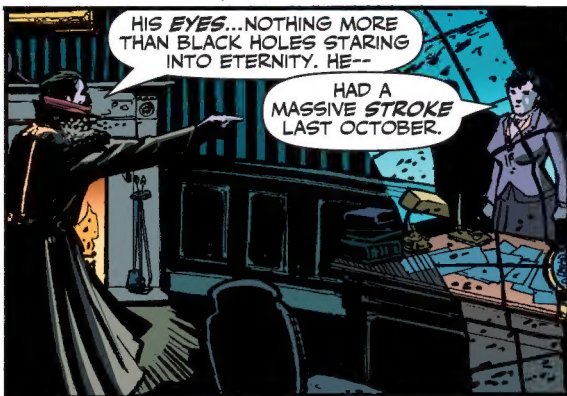
OTHERWISE...  
I'LL BE ON MY  
WAY.



VERY WELL,  
THEN. FOLLOW ME.  
THIS IS THE **OVAL  
OFFICE**.

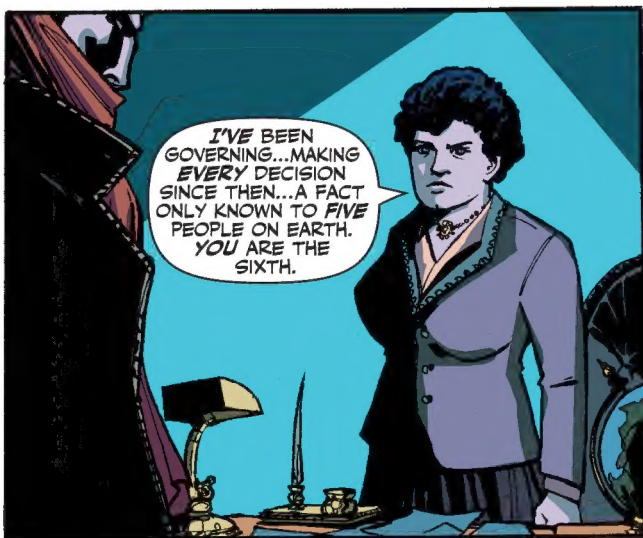


MR. PRESIDENT,  
I'M COLONEL ALLARD.  
YOU—



HIS **EYES**...NOTHING MORE  
THAN **BLACK HOLES** STARING  
INTO **ETERNITY**. HE--

HAD A  
**MASSIVE STROKE**  
LAST OCTOBER.



I'VE BEEN  
GOVERNING...MAKING  
**EVERY** DECISION  
SINCE THEN...A FACT  
ONLY KNOWN TO **FIVE**  
PEOPLE ON EARTH.  
YOU ARE THE  
**SIXTH**.



YOU WANTED  
TO MEET WITH THE  
**PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES**,  
COLONEL?

YOU'RE  
MEETING WITH  
**HER**.





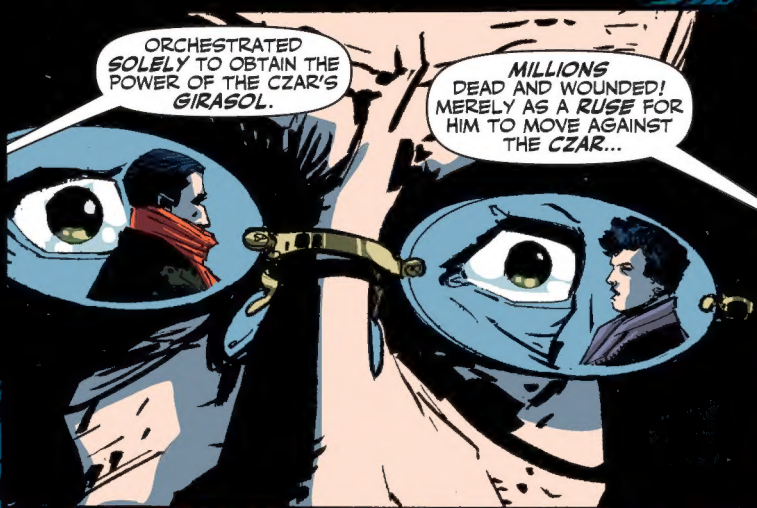
YOUR SECRET REMAINS SAFE WITH ME, MADAME PRESIDENT.

AND, YES... I POSSESS THE GIRASOL.



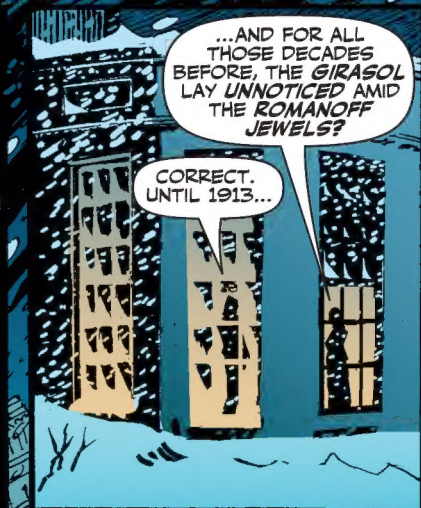
I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THIS...

ESPECIALLY WITH YOU CLAIMING TO HAVE *PROOF* THAT ARCHDUKE FERDINAND'S ASSASSINATION WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A *SET-UP* BY THE KAISER TO IGNITE THE *GREAT WAR*!



ORCHESTRATED SOLELY TO OBTAIN THE POWER OF THE CZAR'S GIRASOL.

MILLIONS DEAD AND WOUNDED! MERELY AS A *RUSE* FOR HIM TO MOVE AGAINST THE CZAR...



...AND FOR ALL THOSE DECADES BEFORE, THE GIRASOL LAY UNNOTICED AMID THE ROMANOFF JEWELS?

CORRECT. UNTIL 1913...

"AFTER YEARS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE CZAR'S INNER CIRCLE, I TRICKED RASPUTIN INTO TRADING IT FOR MY JEWEL-STUDDED DAGGER!"




THEN THIS DOSSIER IS *TRUE*! YOU, COLONEL, ARE AMERICA'S MOST LEGENDARY SPY SINCE NATHAN HALE!

YOU ARE THE DARK EAGLE!


MADAME, YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH DARK SECRETS.





"RASPUTIN NOR NICHOLAS WERE  
COGNIZANT OF THE POWER OF THE  
GIRASOL. BUT THE KAISER WAS!

"HE HUNTED ME DOWN FROM  
MOSCOW TO THE MARNE!"



NO...  
WOODROW  
ALWAYS SAID  
THE KAISER WAS  
NOT A SMART MAN...  
CERTAINLY NOT  
SMART ENOUGH  
TO CONCEIVE THE  
HORRIFIC PLAN  
YOU CLAIM  
HE DID!



TRUE. HE LACKED THE CAPACITY  
TO PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO HIS  
OWN FABRICATED WAR.


BUT  
SOMEONE ELSE  
DID NOT.



WHAT DIFFERENCE  
DOES THAT MAKE  
NOW?

THE KAISER LOST.  
YOU HAVE THE GIRASOL.  
OUR NIGHTMARE  
IS OVER.

OUR  
NIGHTMARE IS  
ONLY BEGINNING.



THEN WHO  
WAS THIS SECRET  
POWER BEHIND THE  
KAISER? WHO IS THIS  
NIGHTMARE?



SHIWAN  
KHAN.



YOU'RE OVER-REACTING, COLONEL. I DON'T EVEN HAVE A FILE ON A "SHIWAN KHAN."

HE UNRAVELED YOUR HUSBAND'S DREAM OF A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

HE PLANS TO SABOTAGE THE WORLD'S FINANCES.

AND ALREADY, HE IS EMPOWERING MEN OF PURE EVIL...

REMAIN NAÏVE, MADAME PRESIDENT, AND THIS COUNTRY WILL NOT SURVIVE.



"...MEN WHO TODAY ARE NO MORE THAN PAPER-HANGERS, BUT WHO TOMORROW SHALL BE THE ANTI-CHRISTS!"

"HE KNOWS THAT BY CONTROLLING THE GIRASOL, HE WILL HAVE THE POWER TO SEIZE CONTROL OF A MASSIVE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX..."

"...ONE HE CAN QUICKLY MOBILIZE WHILE THE WORLD SLEEPS!"



"HE BELIEVES IT'S HIS DESTINY TO BE A WORLD CONQUEROR, AS HIS ANCESTOR ONCE WAS!"





WOODROW  
ALWAYS CHOSE TO  
SEE THE GOOD IN  
PEOPLE...

HOW CAN THE  
UTTER EVIL YOU  
DESCRIBE LURK IN  
THE HEART OF  
A MAN?

AND  
HOW DO WE  
STOP IT?



THE ONLY  
ANSWER LIES IN  
THE ORIENT...

...IN A PLACE I CAN  
LEARN TO HARNESS MY MIND,  
SO AS TO MASTER THE POWER  
OF THE GIRASOL.



YOU MUST  
NEVER LET IT FALL  
INTO KHAN'S HANDS,  
COLONEL.

FIND HIM...  
BEFORE HE FINDS  
YOU!



I WILL WEED HIM  
OUT, LIKE THE BITTER  
FRUIT ON FLANDERS  
FIELDS.



THEN YOU NEED TO  
GET OUT OF HERE  
RIGHT NOW!

FEDERAL AGENTS  
PLAN TO DIVEST YOU  
OF THAT GIRASOL BEFORE  
YOU LEAVE THE WHITE  
HOUSE.

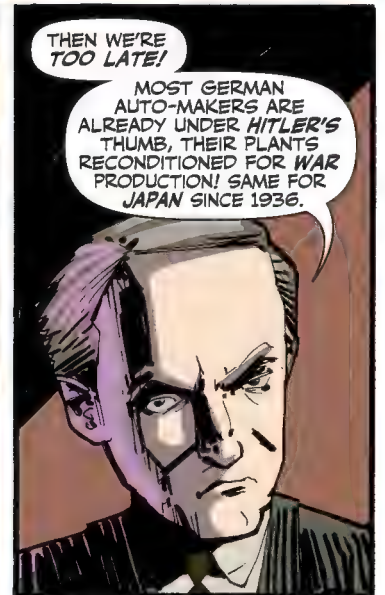
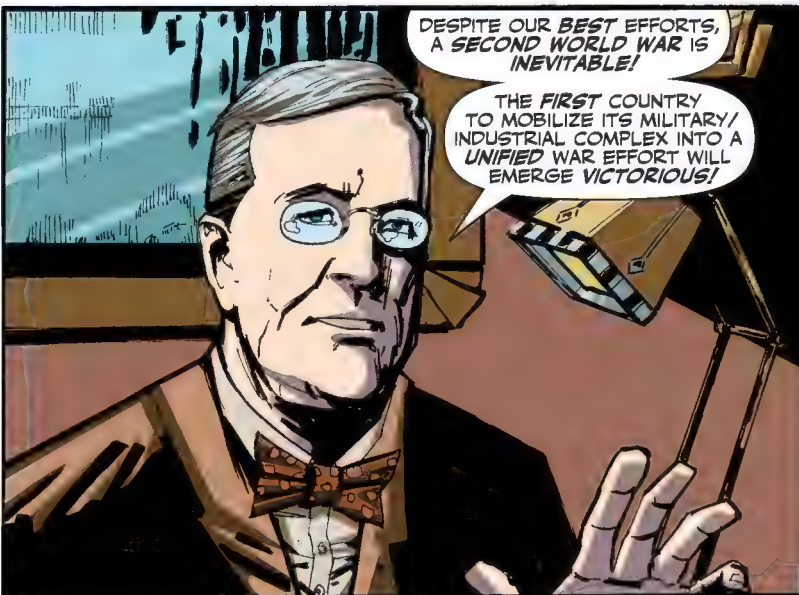
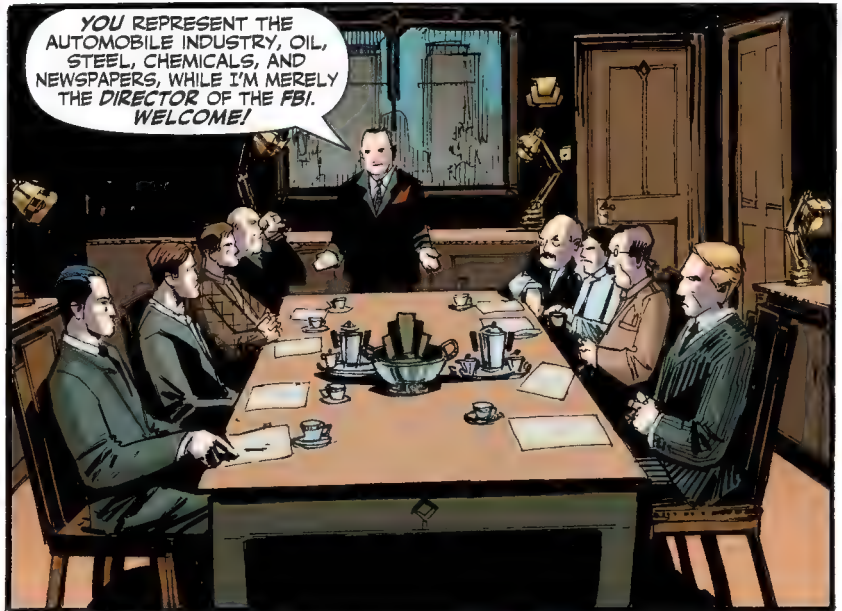


BUT I BELIEVE THIS  
COUNTRY'S BEST CHANCE  
RESTS WITH THAT GIRASOL  
ON YOUR FINGER!

OFFICIALLY...  
YOU WERE NEVER HERE...  
NEVER BACK IN AMERICA  
AT ALL!

COLONEL---?









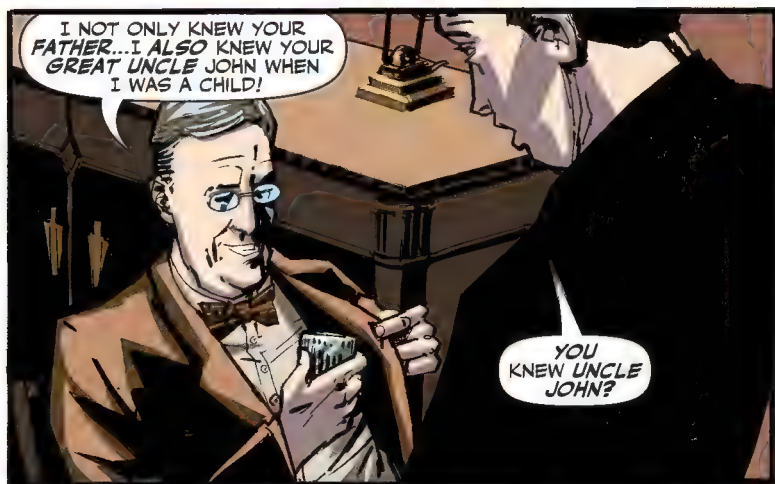
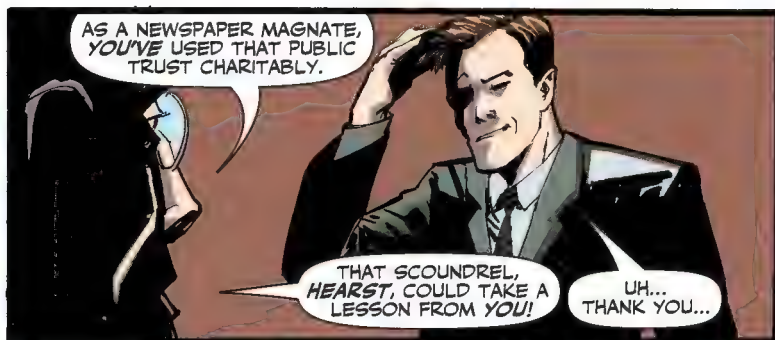




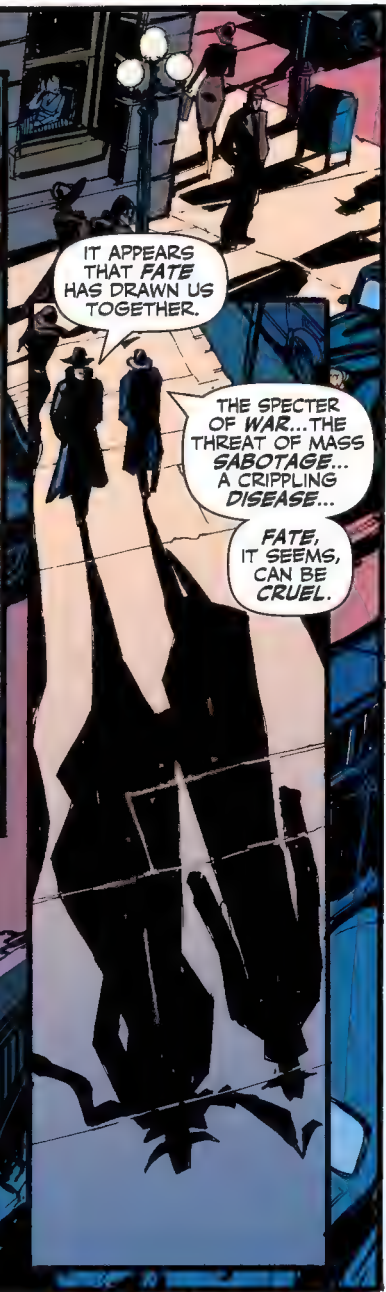
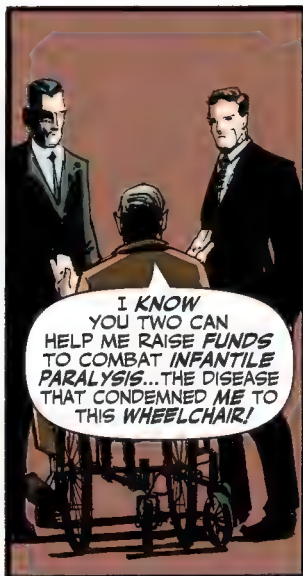














Neuschwanstein Castle,  
Bavarian Alps, Spring 1939...

HAS THE  
POWER I'VE  
HELPED YOU  
CONSOLIDATE  
DRIVEN YOU  
INSANE?

THERE'S  
A DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN "POWER"  
AND THE "ULTIMATE  
POWER" YOU PROMISED  
ME, SHIWAN  
KHAN!

THAT POWER IS  
THE GIRASOL,  
ADOLPH!!

ONCE  
I SECURE IT,  
YOU WILL BE A  
BENEFICIARY...  
PROVIDED  
YOU REMAIN  
LUCID!

JA?  
WHEN?

IT NOW LIES IN THE HANDS  
OF AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST...  
BUT PROTECTED BY...NOT A  
MAN...BUT A VERITABLE  
FORCE OF NATURE!

AND SO,  
YOUR PLAN  
IS---

"WE BLOW UP DETROIT'S AS YET  
VULNERABLE AUTO INDUSTRY..."

"...FOLLOWED BY NEW YORK'S  
COMMUNICATION CENTERS!"





"...CREATING ENOUGH CHAOS TO FORCE  
THE DARK EAGLE...OR THE SHADOW...  
AS HE CALLS HIMSELF NOW...TO REMOVE THE  
GIRASOL FROM TESLA'S HIDING PLACE..."

"...IN A PREMATURE ATTEMPT TO  
HARNESS ITS POWER AGAINST US!"

BUT THE  
ONE THING THE  
SHADOW *DOESN'T*  
KNOW...IS THAT HIS  
OWN MASTERS  
IN THE ORIENT...  
BETRAYED  
HIM!

THE ONES HE SOUGHT  
OUT TO *TEACH* HIM TO  
EXPAND HIS MIND...TO  
CLOUD MEN'S THOUGHTS...  
TO *CONTROL* THE  
POWER OF THE  
GIRASOL...

...SECRETLY  
TRAINED *ME* HOW TO  
TURN THE GIRASOL  
AGAINST HIM!

I WILL BAIT HIM...  
TRAP HIM...NULLIFY  
HIS POWERS...AND  
THEN WILL SLIP THE  
GIRASOL FROM HIS  
COLD, LIFELESS  
FINGER!



The Biograph, 8pm...

WE'RE JUST  
IN TIME FOR THE  
NEWSREEL BEFORE  
"THE WIZARD OF OZ"  
BEGINS!

WHERE'S  
YOUR ASSISTANT,  
LAMONT?

SHE HAD AN...  
ASSIGNMENT...  
BUT WILL MEET US  
FOR DINNER.

FOX  
MOVIE TONE  
NEWS

SHHH!

FLASH!  
INVENTOR NIKOLA  
TESLA HAS ANNOUNCED  
HIS DISCOVERY OF A NEW  
SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT  
COMES FROM AN ENTIRELY  
UNSUSPECTED  
SOURCE!

"THE NEW YORK WORLD" REVEALS  
THE EXISTENCE OF TESLA'S DEATH RAY,  
WHICH THE SCIENTIST CLAIMS WILL  
PUT AN END TO ALL WAR!

The New York World  
WED. JULY 11 1934  
Tesla Bares New  
Death Beam

ITS CONCENTRATED  
PARTICLE BEAMS CAN  
BRING DOWN 10,000  
ENEMY PLANES AT A  
DISTANCE OF 200  
MILES! ARMIES WILL  
DROP DEAD IN  
THEIR TRACKS!

INCREDIBLE!  
HOW GREAT FOR  
OUR SIDE!

HE TALKS  
TOO MUCH.  
THIS IS BAD...  
VERY BAD.



Later...

I MUST SAY, REID, YOUR CLUB HERE RIVALS MY OWN COBALT CLUB IN NEW YORK!

HAPPY YOU COULD JOIN US, CRANSTON!

THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GET ACQUAINTED BEFORE YOU FLY BACK TO NEW YORK!

AND IT ONLY MADE SENSE TO INCLUDE OUR ASSISTANTS, SINCE CASEY AND YOUR MISS LANE WILL NOW BE WORKING TOGETHER!

I MUST ADMIT, IT TOOK SOME CONVINCING TO GET MARGO TO COME TO CHICAGO THIS TRIP.

DID YOU SAY "MARGO"---?

YES. SEEMS SHE GREW UP HERE AND ENDURED SOME TRAUMATIC TIMES. DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY. TROUBLED BROTHER. HATED EACH OF HER GIRLS' BOARDING SCHOOLS.

BRITT REID... LENORE CASE... MEET MARGO LANE.

M-MARGO?!

SORRY I'M LATE, BUT MY BOSS IS A REALLY TOUGH BASTARD!

OH NO! NOT YOU!



The tension tightens... in GERMANY...

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE GIRASOL TRULY HAS THIS POWER?

READ THIS... BY TESLA HIMSELF! TOP SECRET! COURTESY OF KRUGER, YOUR OWN SPY!



NO FORCE ON EARTH IS CAPABLE OF THIS EXCEPT THE GIRASOL!

UNDOUBTEDLY, TESLA HAS IT!

YOUR PLAN TO OBTAIN THE GIRASOL BEGINS WITH US SMASHING DETROIT'S AUTO-INDUSTRY, BUT OUR 5TH COLUMN THERE HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE! WE NEED AN ALLY...

... A CUNNING AND RUTHLESS LEADER CAPABLE OF EFFECTUATING OUR PLANS!

SOMEONE WHO HAS ALREADY OUT-FOXED THE AMERICAN POLICE, THE FBI...

...AND CAN RECRUIT OPERATIVES FROM THE HARD-CORE CRIMINAL ELEMENT RAMPANT IN CHICAGO AND DETROIT...THE MAFIA, ITSELF!

WE NEED THE GREEN HORNET!





"HE'S WANTED BY THE LAW IN CHICAGO,  
BUT CONTINUES TO ELIMINATE THOSE  
MOBSTERS COMPETING WITH HIM  
FOR THE CITY'S RACKETS!"

"AND HE'S APPARENTLY SO  
GOOD, THAT NEITHER THE POLICE  
NOR THE FBI HAVE CHARGED HIM  
WITH EVEN ONE MURDER!"

I'M HANDLING THIS  
MISSION MYSELF!  
THERE'S NO ROOM  
FOR MISSTEP!

THE  
HORNET'S PARTNER IS  
REPORTEDLY JAPANESE.  
THEY MUST BE NAZI  
SYMPATHIZERS!

ONE WAY  
OR ANOTHER,  
I WILL CONVINCE  
OR FORCE THE  
GREEN HORNET  
TO DO OUR  
BIDDING!

CONTACT  
INSPECTOR GENERAL  
TOJO. HAVE HIM ARRANGE  
MY PAPERS SO AMERICA CAN  
RECEIVE A NEW JAPANESE  
AMBASSADOR...ME!









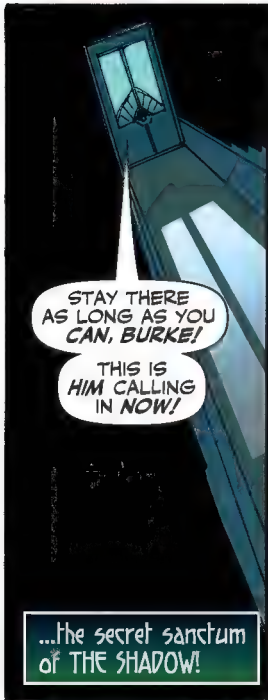
The EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...  
on the 103rd floor...

MESSAGE  
RECEIVED, BURKE!  
DE-CODING IN  
PROGRESS.



...of a skyscraper that supposedly  
has only 102 floors...

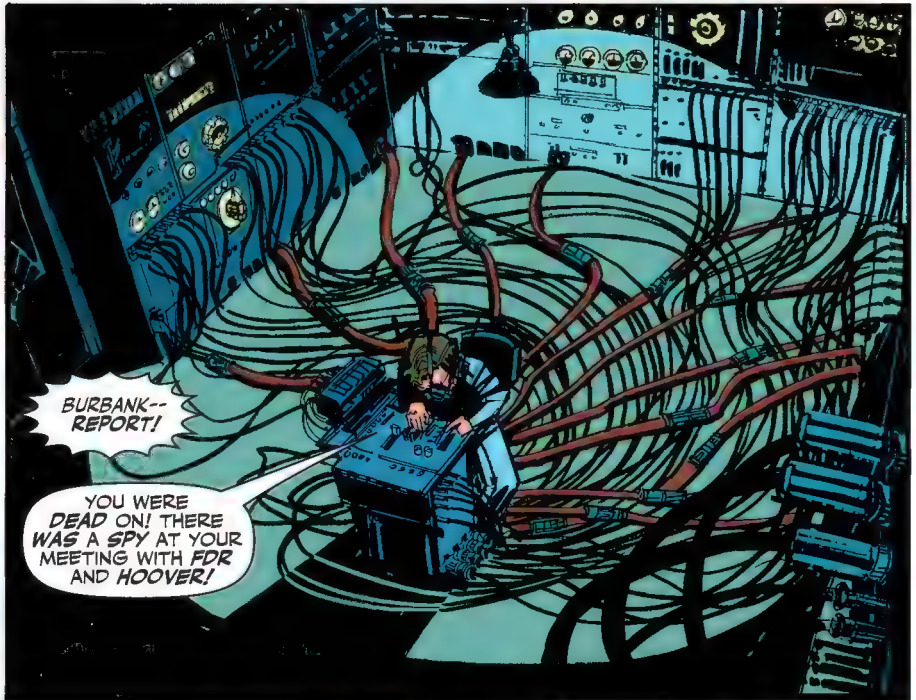
JESUS!



STAY THERE  
AS LONG AS YOU  
CAN, BURKE!

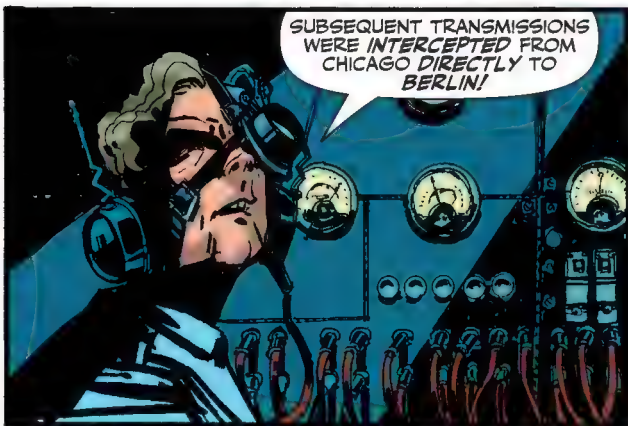
THIS IS  
HIM CALLING  
IN NOW!

...the secret sanctum  
of THE SHADOW!

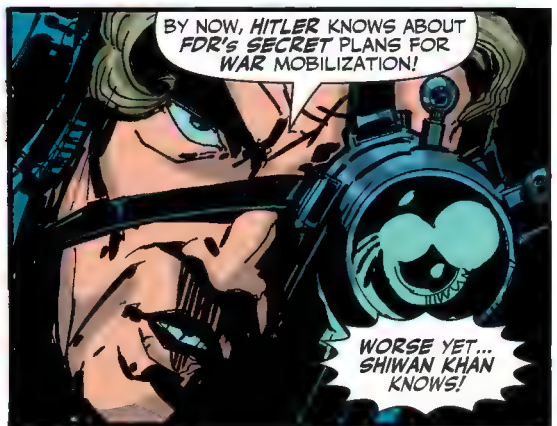


BURBANK--  
REPORT!

YOU WERE  
DEAD ON! THERE  
WAS A SPY AT YOUR  
MEETING WITH FDR  
AND HOOVER!



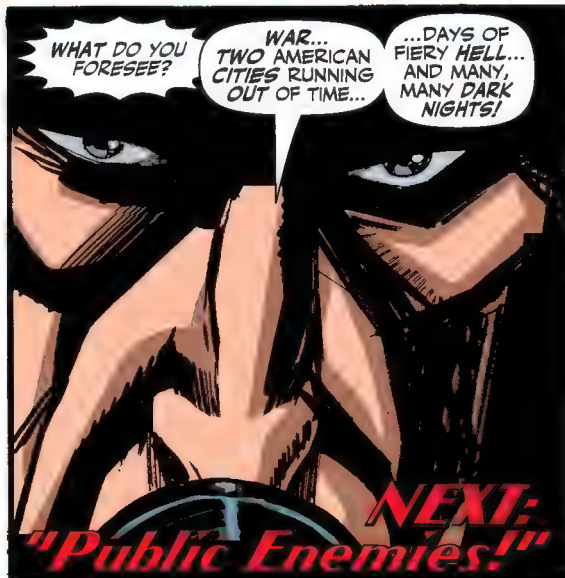
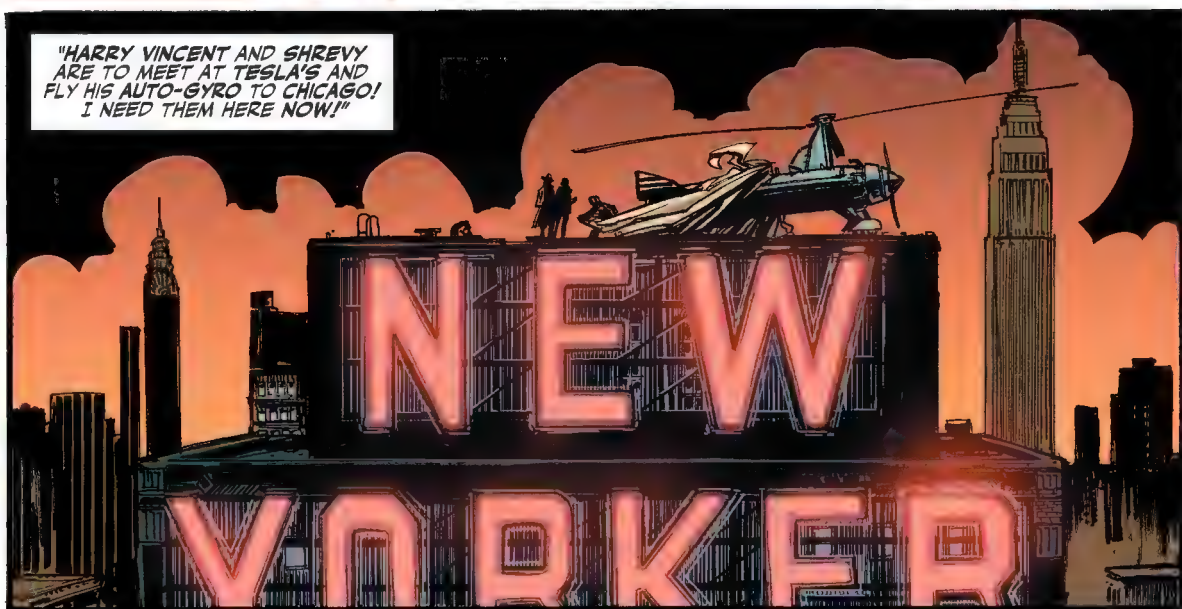
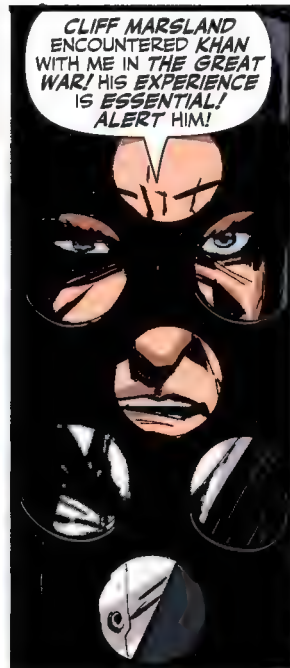
SUBSEQUENT TRANSMISSIONS  
WERE INTERCEPTED FROM  
CHICAGO DIRECTLY TO  
BERLIN!



BY NOW, HITLER KNOWS ABOUT  
FDR'S SECRET PLANS FOR  
WAR MOBILIZATION!

WORSE YET...  
SHIWAN KHAN  
KNOWS!







# THE SHADOW™ GREEN HORNET™ DARK NIGHTS

## FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY BY MICHAEL USLAN

Page 3. On October 2, 1919 Woodrow Wilson suffered a massive stroke. His wife, Edith, and his personal physician, Dr. Gray, conspired to hide the President's condition from everyone... including the Vice President and the general public. For 17 months, it was Edith Wilson who made the Executive decisions, later referring to this time as her "stewardship" of the country.

Page 4. June 28, 1914 began a chain of events that began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and would quickly result in The Great War. To most people, this world war came from out of nowhere. Now you know the whole story.

Page 5. Nicholas II was the Czar of Russia from 1894 till 1917. The Romanoff Jewels owned by the Czar and his family included the Girasol, which moved from Nicholas' possession to that of the spy in his inner circle (later identified as "The Dark Eagle") thanks to the secret work of Rasputin, The Mad Monk in the court of Czar Nicholas II and his Svengali-like advisor especially in 1915-16. For more details, read: THE ROMANOFF JEWELS, THE RED MENACE, THE SHADOW UNMASKS, and RASPUTIN RETURNS.

Page 6. Genghis Khan started the invasion of the Mongols that included the conquest of most of Europe and Asia, often accompanied by wholesale massacres of the civilian population. As a result, Genghis Khan died in 1227, but to this day he is considered a fierce, oppressive conqueror.

Page 7. Flanders Field in the Flanders region of Belgium is often cited as the battlefield where the first chemical attack in history took place. After the Second Battle of Ypres there in 1915, poppies grew quickly over the freshly dug graves. A poem by Lt. John McCrae commemorates the horror that took place there.

Page 8. It was only after World War II, while Senate committees under Truman, Kilgore and Bone began investigating corruption and complicity with the enemy before and during the War, that stories linking various major American industrial companies to the Nazis came out in the open. Also reported in the hearings of these committees was a rumored meeting having taken place many years ago with ranking execs of major U.S. corporations and the highest level representatives of our government.

Page 9. Pilot Colonel Charles Lindbergh was a world-wide hero to multiple generations for his having been the first person ever to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. He later publicly and loudly urged America to stay out of "Europe's War," until Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Thereafter, he signed up to pilot numerous bombing raids against our enemies.

Page 13. Born on the precipice of World War II, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis achieved an instantaneous popularity due to its founder, Franklin D. Roosevelt, having been known to be stricken with polio. A massive p.r. campaign with radio, Hollywood, and the personal appeal of the President, were creating a sensation! Basil O'Connor, a close associate of FDR through his entire Presidency, joined forces with the powerful Britt Reid, publisher of "The Daily Sentinel newspaper, and Lamont Cranston, wealthy industrialist, together becoming the leading light of the March of Dimes and the fund-raising effort to build an organization that could quickly respond to polio epidemics anywhere in the nation. The three men set out at once to create a network of local chapters that could raise money and deliver aid – an adventurous program that paid off substantially just as polio was on the rise.

Page 16. Scientist and inventor, Nikola Tesla, was the science behind The Shadow. Tesla claimed he invented a "teleforce" weapon. The press called it a death ray. Tesla described the weapon as one that sends concentrated beams of particles through the air, of such tremendous energy that they will bring down a fleet of 10,000 enemy airplanes at a distance of 200 miles and will cause armies to drop dead in their tracks.

In 1937, Tesla stated, "But it is not an experiment... I have built, demonstrated and used it. Only a little time will pass before I can give it to the world

During the same year, Tesla wrote a treatise, "*The Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-dispersive Energy through the Natural Media*," concerning a charged particle beam "superweapon that would put an end to all war

Page 19. Inspector-General Tojo would go on to become Japan's wartime Prime Minister in charge of all operations beginning with Pearl Harbor.

Page 21. The Empire State Building was completed in 1931 and in the 1930's and 40's was the home of such famous offices as Timely Comics, The Hidalgo Trading Company, and The Shadow's Secret Sanctum.

Page 22. The Auto-Gyro was invented by Nikola Tesla, who designed a veritable wing propeller driven VTOL air-plane. Out of this grew the gyro-copter/auto-gyro, a type of fixed wing helicopter.



# DYNAMITE DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT DARK NIGHTS #1 FROM MICHAEL USLAN'S SCRIPT TO KEITH BURNS' LINE ART AND TONY AVINA'S COLORS

### PAGE 3.

PANEL 1. From the rafters looking down. COLONEL ALLARD has removed his Colonel's military cap. He still has on his snow-caked military trenchcoat and the red scarf is around the lower half of his face. He stands in a large marble hallway just outside the Oval Office. The Oval Office door, which is on the left side of the panel, opens wide and out is stepping MRS. EDITH WILSON, wife of President Woodrow Wilson.

MRS. WILSON  
Colonel Allard... Sorry to keep you waiting. I'm EDITH WILSON, the WIFE of—  
COLONEL ALLARD  
I KNOW who you are.

PANEL 2. Tighter TWO-SHOT. Have fun with the interior lighting and shadows on a snowy winter's day inside the cold marble vastness of The White House circa 1920. MRS. WISLON is on the left.

MRS. WILSON  
You brought it WITH you, I presume? I need to SEE it.  
COLONEL ALLARD  
I was clear. I'll show it ONLY to the PRESIDENT.

COLONEL ALLARD (BALLOON #2)  
Otherwise... I'll be on my way.

PANEL 3. MRS. WILSON leads COLONEL ALLARD into the Oval Office.  
MRS. WILSON  
Very well, then. Follow me. This is The OVAL OFFICE.

PANEL 4. In the foreground is COLONEL ALLARD who begins addressing PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON. WILSON is sitting behind his desk. The fireplace rages behind him. He has a woolen shawl around his shoulders. He is seemingly staring at COLONEL ALLARD. It is not yet clear he is merely staring blankly off into infinity. There is nothing on the President's desk... not even a piece of paper.

COLONEL ALLARD  
Mr. President, I'm Colonel Allard. You—

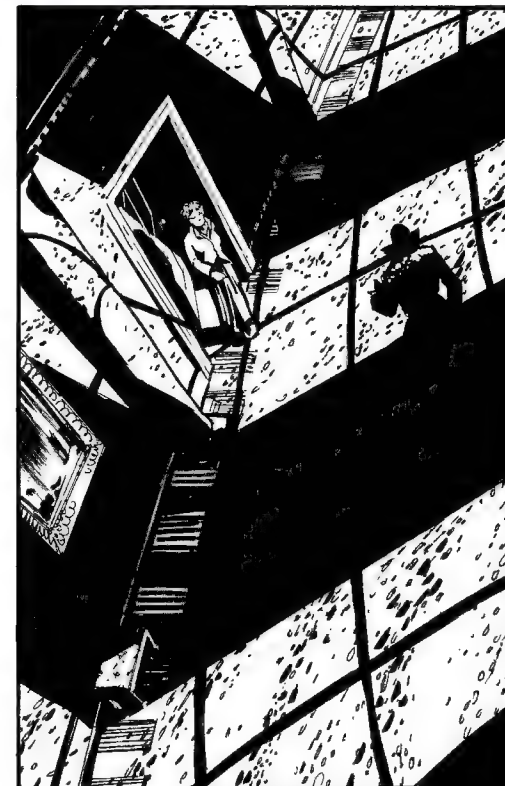
PANEL 5. COLONEL ALLARD turns to the side of the room to address MRS. WILSON. He points at her. She now stands behind her own big desk, one that is covered in papers, maps, books, and fountain pens. There's a globe on the desk, too.

COLONEL ALLARD  
His EYES... nothing more than black holes staring into eternity. He—  
MRS. WILSON  
Had a massive STROKE last October.

PANEL 6. CLOSE on MRS. WILSON. She's smart, determined, and strong-willed. COLONEL ALLARD is absorbing the surprise in what she is revealing.

MRS WILSON  
I'VE been governing... making EVERY decision since then... a fact only known to FIVE people on earth. YOU are the sixth.

PANEL 7. CLOSE-UP on a tough, resolute, and no-nonsense MRS. WILSON.  
MRS. WISLON  
You wanted to meet with the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, Colonel?  
MRS. WISLON (Balloon #2)  
You're meeting with HER.





**A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT DARK NIGHTS #1  
FROM MICHAEL USLAN'S SCRIPT  
TO KEITH BURNS' LINE ART  
AND TONY AVINA'S COLORS**

**PAGE 4.**

PANEL 1. Inside the 1920 Oval Office. A TWO-SHOT as COLONEL ALLARD, trenchcoat off but red scarf still covering his lower face, speaks with EDITH WILSON, both looking and acting deadly seriously. The lighting in the room cast by the roaring fireplace is moody. She looks at a dossier labeled "TOP SECRET."

COLONEL ALLARD

YOUR secret remains SAFE with ME, Madame President.

COLONEL ALLARD (Balloon #2)

And, YES... I possess the GIRASOL.

PANEL 2. EDITH WILSON looks up from her dossier in disbelief.

EDITH WILSON

I'm RELIEVED to hear this...

EDITH WILSON (Balloon #2)

ESPECIALLY with you claiming to have PROOF that Archduke Ferdinand's assassination was nothing more than a SET-UP by the KAISER to ignite The GREAT WAR!

PANEL 3. An unmoving, unblinking PRESIDENT WILSON sits in his trance-like state as EDITH WILSON and COLONEL ALLARD talk as if he is not in the room.

COLONEL ALLARD

Orchestrated SOLELY to obtain the power of the Czar's GIRASOL.

EDITH WILSON

MILLIONS dead and wounded! Merely as a RUSE for him to move against the CZAR...

PANEL 4. POV from outside the Oval Office and White House in the blowing snowfall, looking in through a window at the shadowy figures of COLONEL ALLARD and EDITH WILSON as they converse.

EDITH WILSON

... And for all those decades before, the GIRASOL lay UNNOTICED amid the ROMANOFF JEWELS?

COLONEL ALLARD

Correct. Until 1913...

PANEL 5. FLASH-BACK. 1913. SNOWY, FREEZING MOSCOW, IN FRONT OF THE CZAR'S PALACE-NIGHT. COLONEL ALLARD is disguised as a bearded Russian White Army Officer in period uniform. He is exchanging a dazzling bejeweled dagger for the Girasol from RASPUTIN, the Mad Monk. The Girasol is a large, blood-red ring with an almost glowing fire opal in the center.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"After years deeply embedded in the CZAR'S inner circle, I tricked RASPUTIN into TRADING it for my jewel-studded dagger!"

PANEL 6. FLASH-BACK ENDS. EDITH WILSON looks at COLONEL ALLARD in shock, as if seeing him for the very first time.

EDITH WILSON

Then this dossier is TRUE! YOU, Colonel, are America's most legendary spy since NATHAN HALE!

EDITH WILSON (Balloon #2)

YOU are The DARK EAGLE!

PANEL 7. TIGHT on the piercing eyes of COLONEL ALLARD.

COLONEL ALLARD

Madame, YOU are NOT the ONLY one with DARK SECRETS.





## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT DARK NIGHTS #1 FROM MICHAEL USLAN'S SCRIPT TO KEITH BURNS' LINE ART AND TONY AVINA'S COLORS

### PAGE 5.

PANEL 1. FLASH-BACK 1914. COLONEL ALLARD in his bearded Russian officer disguise flees through a bombed European city street as German soldiers circa 1914 shoot at him. He is running into the shadows of a burned-out building.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"RASPUTIN nor NICHOLAS were cognizant of the POWER of the GIRASOL. But the KAISER was!"

CAPTION #2 (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"He hunted me down from Moscow to the Marne!"

PANEL 2. FLASH-BACK ENDS. ANGLE ON a dismissive EDITH WILSON as we see WOODROW WILSON staring blankly in the background.

EDITH WILSON

No... WOODROW always said the KAISER was NOT a smart man... certainly NOT smart enough to conceive the HORRIFIC plan YOU claim he did!

PANEL 3. COLONEL ALLARD interrupts her.

COLONEL ALLARD

TRUE. HE lacked the capacity to plunge the world into his own fabricated WAR.

COLONEL ALLARD (Balloon #2)

But someone ELSE did NOT.

PANEL 4. Same scene. ANGLE ON EDITH WILSON.

EDITH WILSON

What DIFFERENCE does that make now?

EDITH WILSON (Balloon #2)

The Kaiser LOST. YOU have the GIRASOL. Our NIGHTMARE is OVER.

COLONEL ALLARD

Our NIGHTMARE is only BEGINNING.

PANEL 5. The shadows of the flickering fire place in the Oval Office cast themselves eerily over the figure of COLONEL ALLARD, almost visually transforming him into that which will one day become his future self--- The Shadow.

EDITH WILSON

Then WHO was this SECRET power behind the KAISER? WHO is this NIGHTMARE?

PANEL 6. ANGLE ON COLONEL ALLARD. You could almost impose skulls over his eyeballs.

COLONEL ALLARD

SHIWAN KHAN.





A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT DARK NIGHTS #1  
FROM MICHAEL USLAN'S SCRIPT  
TO KEITH BURNS' LINE ART  
AND TONY AVINA'S COLORS

PAGE 6.

PANEL 1. Same Scene. ANGLE ON EDITH WILSON, the gravity of the situation forcing her to "grab for straws," as the saying goes.

EDITH WILSON

You're over-reacting, Colonel. I don't even have a FILE on a "Shiwan Khan."

COLONEL ALLARD

Remain NAÏVE, Madame President, and this country will NOT survive.

PANEL 2. Same Scene. ANGLE ON the zombie-like WOODROW WILSON.

COLONEL ALLARD

HE unraveled your husband's dream of a LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

COLONEL ALLARD (Balloon #2)

HE plans to sabotage the world's FINANCES.

COLONEL ALLARD (Balloon #3)

And already, HE is empowering men of pure EVIL...

PANEL 3. A VISION OF THE FUTURE as we see paper-hanger, ADOLPH SCHICKELGRUBER, working on a mundane job in the foreground with a phantom image of his future self known as ADOLPH HITLER, rising up behind him, delivering some crazed speech in his Nazi uniform.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"...Men who TODAY are no more than paper-hangers, but who TOMORROW shall be the ANTI-CHRISTS!"

PANEL 4. A VISION OF THE FUTURE CONTINUES. A flying armada of Luftwaffe planes are arriving over night-time London, dropping their deadly bombs.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"HE knows that by controlling the GIRASOL, he will have the POWER to seize control of a massive military industrial complex..."

PANEL 5. A VISION OF THE FUTURE CONTINUES. We see Hitler's panzers roar across the North African dessert, big guns blazing.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"... One he can quickly MOBILIZE while the world SLEEPS!"

PANEL 6. A VISION OF THE PAST. GENGHIS KHAN charges in to battle atop his steed amid his Mongol hordes.

CAPTION (ALLARD'S voice-over narration)

"HE believes it's his DESTINY to be a world CONQUEROR, as his ANCESTOR once was!"





# DYNAMITE®

## IN THE NEWS - JULY 2013

**THE ART OF SEAN PHILLIPS HARDCOVER CELEBRATES THE CAREER OF FAN-FAVORITE FATALE AND CRIMINAL ARTIST**



Dynamite Entertainment is proud to announce the October 2013 release of *THE ART OF SEAN PHILLIPS* by co-writers Sean Phillips and Eddie Robson, a career-spanning hardcover retrospective of the acclaimed Criminal and Fatale artist, including over 350 pieces of artwork, 70 never-before-seen illustrations, and exclusive interviews with the artist and his peers.

For *THE ART OF SEAN PHILLIPS*, the artist has personally selected the very best, most interesting examples of his art for inclusion, from comic strips assembled with childhood friends in his bedroom, through his work for British girls' comics and 2000AD, to his role as a key artist in the early years of Vertigo, through his superhero work for Marvel, DC, and WildStorm, and finally from his multiple creator-owned series with collaborator Ed Brubaker. Also, this lavish 312-page hardcover features extensive dialogues with Phillips himself, as well as contemporaries Ed Brubaker, Warren Ellis, Karen Berger, Jamie Delano, Dean Motter, Eddie Campbell, Axel Alonso, Joe Casey, Dave Gibbons, and many more.

"Putting this book together has been a welcome reminder that I might not have wasted my life drawing comics," jokes Phillips.

"Looking back, I see that I've managed a wide variety of work in a range of genres that I might not have been that comfortable with drawing beforehand. That I can still bear to look at some of this work means that it's a lot better than I thought it was at the time that I drew it. It's never as good on paper as it was in my head, but seeing the highlights brought together in a proper hardcover retrospective makes me think that maybe I've got the hang of this comics stuff after all."

Eddie Robson, who co-writes the book with Sean Phillips, says, "You've got a selection of his best work, mixed in with stuff that's never been seen before, and stuff that really shows off his process and his evolution as an artist. It's a lovely object, so well-designed, and seeing all the material outside a narrative context gives you a fresh appreciation of Sean's work. But we were keen for there to be value in the text too, so it's 60,000 words, which would comfortably fill a 200-page paperback on its own. It's not just a few bits of puff to fill in the spaces around the artwork; it's a full and frank account of Sean's career from the beginning to the present day. It's really enlightened me regarding Sean's work and the craft of a modern comics artist generally, and thanks to all our contributors, I'm sure it'll do the same for everyone who reads it."

Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite, expressed his enthusiasm for the project. "Sean Phillips is one of the industry's top talents - a true visionary whose artistic prowess conveys such incredible depth and drama, you can't help but be drawn into his storytelling. I leapt at the chance to get this book published, and his involvement through every step of the process has been both invaluable and a pleasure. We couldn't be happier to place his retrospective on our bookshelf alongside our successful Alex Ross, Howard Chaykin, and John Cassaday art books. Now it's time to add the beautiful Sean Phillips hardcover."

*THE ART OF SEAN PHILLIPS* is solicited in the Diamond July Previews catalog for release in October.

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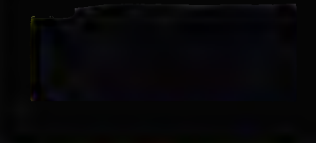
## NEXT ISSUE:

**THE SHADOW ★ GREEN HORNET  
DARK NIGHTS**



### ISSUE #2

The Green Hornet and Kato ally with Shiwan Khan against the dark force known as The Shadow, warned that a storm is coming to America... an electrically-charged storm of Biblical proportions... a storm that will bring explosive destruction to the heart of the country's communications, finance and manufacturing industries... a storm that will rain fear across the United States... for Khan now knows how to turn the ultimate power on earth against The Shadow and his secret partner, the scientist who invented the auto-gyro and first harnessed this terrible power, Nikola Tesla!



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## FEATURED REVIEWS

### BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1

(Geeks of Doom):

"BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1 proves the theory that if you want the best, you get the best. In this case, if you have a tremendously popular science fiction franchise with a huge cast, you call DnA (Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning) to write your book. Any fan of the television show is going to love this book. Anyone who's never seen or been interested in the television show, will definitely be entertained. Pick this book up now!"

### BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1

(Major Spoiler):

"BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #1 filled a campy, space-opera-sized hole in my heart."

### GRIMM #1

(Bloody Disgusting):

"The art is simply great. I like the realistic imagery, especially with regards to the

Wesen, there is a big diversity of creatures and they look unique and interesting. The violence is unsuspected and well done. The colours are not overly dark or soft, and they offer a good representation of daily life."

### GRIMM #1

(Major Spoiler):

"Bottom line: this issue is one of the best adaptations of a TV series ever. The pacing is quick and deliberate, much like the series. The art has a very dark feel, much like the show, which often has much of the action taking place at night. On all the things that concern me — likenesses, up-to-date storylines, being true to the show on nearly every level... I was impressed by GRIMM #1. I'm anxiously awaiting the next issue."

### GARTH ENNIS' RED TEAM #3

(Comic Book Therapy):

"It's an incredibly intriguing crime drama

being told alongside some great art. Cermak's art is brilliant as always."

### BLACK BAT #2

(Comic Book Therapy):

"Buccellato has found a great angle for Black Bat's new origins. He's a character that could do well with a modern twist, and so far Buccellato has succeeded. There is still a lot of mystery as to the character and the larger story, but it's still early days. At least it's a fun ride!"

### SHADOW: YEAR ONE #3

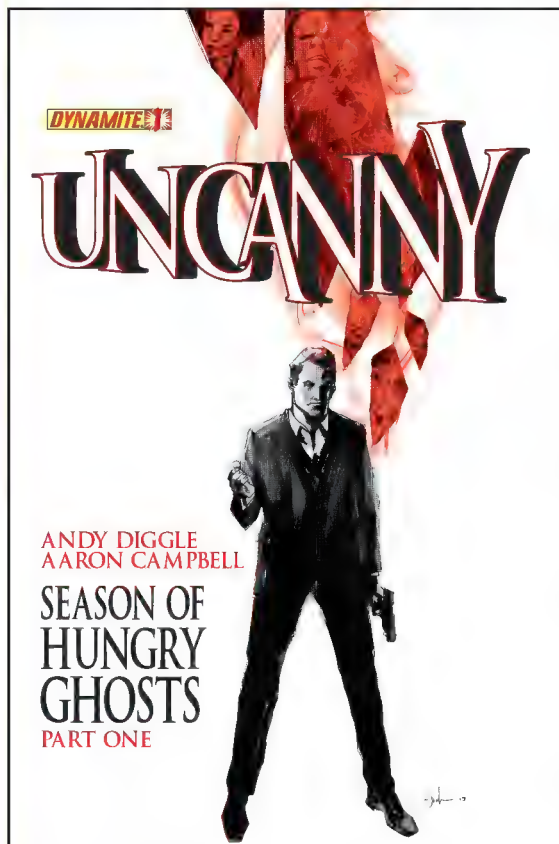
(Comic Book Bin):

"Issue #3 is about bad guys, the kind of fictional violent, remorseless killers that deserve to have the sword of justice brought down on them. Thank goodness that Matt Wagner finally, really unleashes The Shadow's pistols."



# DYNAMITE® IN STORES NOW! UNCANNY #1

WRITER ANDY DIGGLE TALKS ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK *UNCANNY*, CRIME IN COMICS, AND MORE! ORIGINALLY POSTED ON COSMICBOOKNEWS.COM



Byron Brewer, Managing Editor of Cosmic Book News:

It is a fact that lovers of cosmic comics are also usually lovers of crime drama, and for many of us it is the 1940s Bogie style we love: gritty, street smart and violent.

A market in comics is growing for crime mystery, and a new offering to this is Dynamite Comics' *Uncanny* by writer Andy Diggle (*Hellblazer*, *Daredevil*, *The Losers*) and artist Aaron Campbell (*Sherlock Holmes*, *The Shadow*).

To get to the bottom of this noir concoction, Cosmic Book News Managing Editor Byron Brewer exclusively got a booth in the back at Lefty's and had a discussion with Diggle.

**Cosmic Book News:** Andy, how did this project in Dynamite's new Crime Line come about?

**Andy Diggle:** It was pretty simple -- they asked! I've enjoyed writing genre books like *The Losers*, *Rat Catcher*, *Six Guns* and *Green Arrow: Year One* (which I approached as an action thriller rather than a superhero comic), and I guess it shows.

**CBN:** The thrillers you mention, like *The Losers* and *Rat Catcher*, had a great feel and were well received. Can you compare *Uncanny* with those works?

**Andy Diggle:** *The Losers* was heavy on the action whereas *Rat Catcher* was more of a procedural -- although it did have the requisite amount of gunfights and exploding helicopters! *Uncanny* is somewhere in between -- gritty noir in tone, with a balance of action and drama. The difference is that *Uncanny* also has this slight supernatural undercurrent which allows me to zig-zag off in unexpected directions.

**CBN:** Tell us about *Uncanny*'s character Weaver.

**Andy Diggle:** He's a professional gambler, con-man and thief for hire. On the surface he seems to have it all -- looks, skill, confidence, swagger -- but we quickly learn that it's all just a front. His amazing jack-of-all-trades skills are not really his own -- he has this ability to steal other people's knowledge, abilities and expertise for a limited time, and use them to execute his plan. But the clock's always ticking. He has to complete his mission before the stolen skills fade and he goes back to being a regular Joe. He lives this completely disposable lifestyle, always moving, but there's no safety net under him. He's hollow inside. We join him at a point in his life where he's forced to confront these aspects of himself that maybe aren't so pretty.

**CBN:** Are there any special foes he faces? Is he the only one with paranormal powers in the stories?

**Andy Diggle:** He thinks he's unique, but he quickly learns that there are other people out there with abilities even weirder than his own. He's never really questioned where he got this power from -- he figures, "Don't mess with a winning streak." It's only once he starts losing that he's forced to start finding out the truth about his own origins.

**CBN:** What can we expect from *Uncanny* as it goes forward?

**Andy Diggle:** After a run of bad luck, Weaver finds himself in a corner and takes a job that will lead him to team up with other players with uncanny abilities, who are trying to find the source of their own powers. Cue action, intrigue, heists, betrayals, sex and violence. All the good stuff, in other words.

**CBN:** Do you have any certain inspirations for your crime writing? Was there a particular work that inspired *Uncanny*?

**Andy Diggle:** My aspirations are simply to entertain with a brain. I love genre comics and movies, and I hate it when they say, "Leave your brain at the door." I like my brain where it is, y'know? I try to spin an entertaining yarn that doesn't insult the intelligence of the reader.

**CBN:** What about the art of Aaron Campbell? Did you see his work on *The Shadow*?

**Andy Diggle:** I did, and it was great. He's the perfect choice for this kind of book -- his line work has all the grit and shadow you want for a noir book, but the action choreography is still crisp and clear. It's the perfect combination.

**CBN:** Do think there is a strong place for crime drama in the comics market?

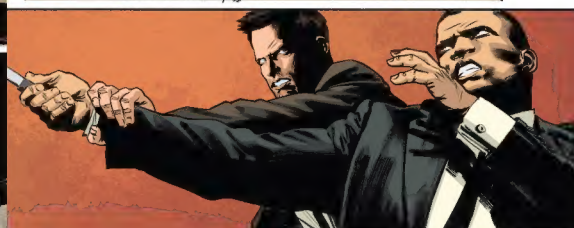
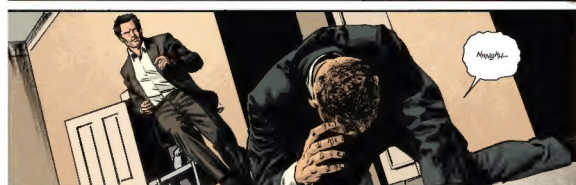
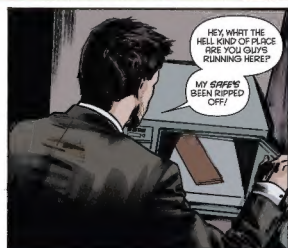
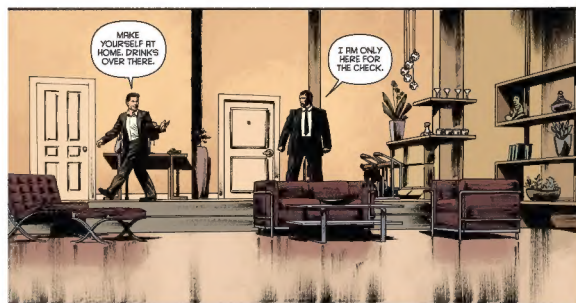
**Andy Diggle:** There does seem to be. I think books like *100 Bullets*, *Criminal* and the underrated *Stray Bullets* really kicked the doors open and showed comics fans there's more for them than just the monthly corporate spandex grind. Crime is hugely popular in film, TV and literature, and there's no reason that shouldn't be true of comics too.

**CBN:** Any current or future projects you would like to mention?

**Andy Diggle:** I'm having a blast writing *Thief of Thieves* with Robert Kirkman at Image, and *Doctor Who* at IDW. I'm also lining up a couple of new projects that I can't talk about yet, including a possible second crime book at Dynamite. It's fun being able to play the field.

**Cosmic Book News** would like to thank Andy Diggle for taking time out of his busy schedule to answer our questions, and we also thank Dynamite's own Nick Barrucci and Josh Green who helped make this interview possible.







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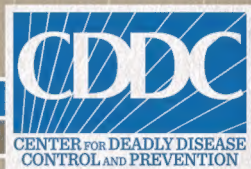
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# KINGS WATCH

**THE PHANTOM • FLASH GORDON • MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN**  
WHAT ARE THREE MEN WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO SAVE US ALL?

## AN INTERVIEW WITH KINGS WATCH WRITER JEFF PARKER

**Who are the members of KINGS WATCH, and what do each of these characters contribute to the group?**

It's the Trinity of King Features: Flash Gordon, Mandrake the Magician, and The Phantom. As well as some of their individual supporting casts. We find that the big three complement each other very well in dealing with the menaces unleashed in Kings Watch. Mandrake has arcane knowledge that lesser mortals would go insane being aware of, and he influences perception. The Phantom is a master of combat and fairly ruthless. Flash is the idealistic hero to whom odds mean nothing.

**What most excites you about working on the KINGS WATCH project?**

I've had an idea for Flash's character in the back of my head for a long time, and this story lets me introduce him that way. They're some of the biggest icons of pulp heroic fiction, and so many characters are influenced by them.

But most directly I'm very excited to work with Marc Laming. Every time new pages roll in from him, I have to show them to my studio mates, they're gorgeous. His art has the timeless quality that fits this like a glove. I'm very happy editor Nate Cosby paired us together; this book is coming to life.

**Mandrake the Magician makes his return in KINGS WATCH. What are your thoughts on bringing back the character?**

I'm really trying to preserve some mystery with him, which works to counter more out-in-front heroes like Flash. I think a lot of people assume you can't do these characters except as period pieces, which of course you can, but I want to show that they work great in a modern context without having to change what they are. The quality of 'classic' means it can work at any point.

**All three of the principal cast - Flash Gordon, Mandrake, and The Phantom - have a long and storied career in popular media. In fact, some historians would consider Mandrake to be the first superhero. Has history /cultural (or pop cultural) significance played a role in how you handle the characters?**

Oh yes. I put Alex Raymond and Flash Gordon way up at the top in my hierarchy of adventure comics history- so much of what came later was established by Flash Gordon, and Raymond was a looming art hero, as was Al Williamson who later did some of the greatest Flash stories. As a kid I was able, like many, to read The Phantom in my daily newspaper, and for a while I'd cut them out and save them. I wasn't able to read Mandrake until later, my only sense of him was

Kurtzman and Elder's parody Manduck The Magician in the old Mad Magazine reprints!

How impressive is it that Lee Falk kept writing The Phantom for the rest of the 20th Century? In short, the history of those characters and their creators looms large in my mental landscape and the chance to introduce them to new readers is one I couldn't pass up.

**Heroes are often defined by the villains they face. What can you tell us about the perils that our heroes face in KINGS WATCH?**

Since Mandrake was the first, it seemed appropriate to lead with his biggest enemy, The Cobra. In our story, The Cobra has found a source of power that will benefit him greatly, but put the entire planet in deep peril. He essentially opens Pandora's Box and our three heroes have to rise to a new level of challenge for all of them.

**You're no stranger to team books, especially those with an off-beat line-up of very unique personalities. Are there parallels from your previous work in AGENTS OF ATLAS and X-MEN: FIRST CLASS that fans will see in your new KINGS WATCH project?**

I think especially if you liked Agents of Atlas you're going to enjoy this. That was all about approaching archetypes, and KW is too. I try to hit a balance of menace, thrill, and humor that I love about adventure fiction. And there are spies, pirates, and monsters.

**Among the cast of KINGS WATCH - is there a particular character you have the most fun writing, and why?**

I'm partial to Flash because we're presenting him as such an upbeat guy, but really they're all a thrill. The Phantom as a grizzled older hero who's seen everything is pretty appealing, after all.

**How much previous knowledge of the characters would readers need to know before picking up KINGS WATCH?**

Nothing at all. If you're familiar with the characters you'll pick up on the history we're using, but there isn't anything to wiki-study before jumping in.

**Are there any popular comparison titles on the market right now whose fans would best fit the KINGS WATCH audience?**

Rocketeer, Shadow, B.P.R.D., anything I've worked on. I think you'll find it has universal appeal to the audiences who like Indiana Jones and Star Wars, franchises that were influenced by these features originally.

**SUPERSTAR WRITER JEFF PARKER**  
**AND ACCLAIMED ARTIST MARC LAMING**  
**DELIVER THE EARTH-CRUSHING EVENT OF 2013**

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# CODENAME: ACTION

IN THE HEIGHT OF THE COLD WAR, SPIES AND MASKED HEROES ALIKE ARE DRAWN INTO A DEADLY PLOT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE IRON CURTAIN...



WRITTEN BY  
**CHRIS ROBERSON**

(MASKS)

ART BY  
**JONATHAN LAU**

(KEVIN SMITH'S GREEN HORNET)

COVERS BY  
**JAE LEE**  
**FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA**  
**JONATHAN LAU**  
**JOHNNY DESJARDINS**



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## WHAT IS CODENAME: ACTION?

An interview with writer Chris Roberson

**CODENAME: ACTION** will emulate the very successful concept of **MASKS** by uniting a diverse and recognizable cast of solo adventurers. How would you compare the two projects?

The new series is not a direct sequel, but a new story set some years later that features a few of the same cast members. And while **MASKS** was an attempt to showcase everything I love best about the Pulp / Golden Age / Old Time Radio stories of the Great Depression era, **CODENAME: ACTION** is intended to showcase the things that I love about jet-age superspies and Cold War-era super-heroics.

With "ACTION" in the title, we know that **Captain Action** will be central to the story. What can you share with us about his involvement in this universe of characters?

**CODENAME: ACTION** in part functions as an origin story for Captain Action, reintroducing him to a modern audience while at the same time setting him firmly in the period in which the character first appeared. Captain Action was a product of the time that gave us the James Bond films, and TV shows like *Man From U.N.C.L.E.* and *The Prisoner*, and **CODENAME: ACTION** is very much an attempt to put the character in that kind of context.

Who are the new players in the **CODENAME: ACTION** universe, and what would you describe as the unique traits that each of these characters brings to the story?

**CODENAME: ACTION** isn't a superhero story, but is a superspy adventure with some superheroes in it. So the main focus of the attention is on the spy and espionage characters like **Operator 5**, **Black Venus**, and **Operative 1001** (the man who will become Captain Action). Along the way, our spies will encounter various masked heroes and vigilantes, like **American Crusader**, **Green Hornet** and **Kato**, and **The Spider**.

How would you describe the accessibility of **CODENAME: ACTION**? Will readers need to have a previous knowledge of the characters, or of the **MASKS** series?

The intent is that anyone should be able to pick up **CODENAME: ACTION** without any prior knowledge of these characters. Everything that readers need to know should be on the page.

What are the themes that you wish to explore in **CODENAME: ACTION**?

When developing **MASKS**, I gave a lot of thought to the thematic underpinnings of the story we were telling, getting at the essential ideas of "justice" and the "law" that these various masked vigilantes operated under. With **CODENAME: ACTION**, my focus is more on the adventure aspects of the story. So I suppose you could say that the themes I'm hoping to explore in **CODENAME: ACTION** are explosions, chase scenes, and high-flying spy action!

Behind the scenes, how would you describe the project development? Are there unique challenges or benefits to working with such a vast array of characters and licenses?

**MASKS** was an interesting challenge, since we had so many different characters that each operated with equal footing, and each demanded a fair amount of "screen time." Since the focus of **CODENAME: ACTION** is more on the espionage and spy characters, it's actually been more of an organic process, simply waiting to find the best places to use the various other characters in supporting or "guest star" roles.

Whom do you see as the target audience for **CODENAME: ACTION**?

I hope that anyone who enjoys spy adventure stories in comics, TV, novels, or movies would find something to like about **CODENAME: ACTION**!



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